

FY '03 Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Award Winners

Mark Boulay of Neutron Science and Technology Group (P-23) and Jian Xin Zhu of Condensed Matter and Statistical Physics Group (T-11) are the individual winners of the Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Awards (PDPA). Matthew Hastings and Charles Reichhardt of Complex Systems (T-13) garnered the small team award.

The PDPA recognizes outstanding and unique contributions by Lab postdocs that result in a positive and significant impact on the Laboratory's programmatic or scientific efforts or status in the scientific community. It also recognizes unusual creativity, innovation, or dedication and level of performance substantially beyond that which would normally be expected.

Andrew Hime of P-23 nominated Boulay, a current Postdoctoral Research Associate. He was recognized for his outstanding performance and central and pivotal role in the research efforts on the analysis of data from the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory (SNO), the results of which resolve the long-standing solar neutrino problem and provide direct evidence for neutrino flavor oscillations. Even though he has been part of a large experimental team, he stands out because of his individual accomplishments. He led the analysis of the data from the SNO project (100 scientists) and was the principal author of the three most recent papers. These papers have over 1000 citations in 2003, the largest number in all of basic science. His work is truly seminal. The SNO Collaboration honored him by nominating him for an APS invited talk in Spring 2003.

Alexander Balatsky of T-11 nominated Zhu, a current Postdoctoral Research Associate and previous Director's Postdoctoral Fellow. He was recognized for his outstanding research achievements, productivity, innovativeness, independence, interactive research and extraordinary publication record. Even though he is working in a mature field, he stands out for his contributions in this field and for his partnering with the experimental side of the research. During CY 2003 alone he has been first author on 4 articles in Physical Review Letters (PRL), the most prestigious of physics journals, and has submitted another 3 to PRL. His previous work has been widely recognized as important in the field of condensed matter theory as evidenced by more than 450 citations to his published papers. His work has been characterized by its originality and by its role in stimulating experimental work toward important discoveries, particularly in the area of high temperature superconductivity, HTS.

Eli Ben-Naim of T-CNLS nominated Hastings and Reichhardt, previous Feynman Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellows who recently converted to Lab technical staff members. They were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the statistical physics of soft matter, and for their high-impact creativity in multidisciplinary theoretical and computational physics, performed in close collaboration with experimentalists working on micro- and nano-electronics and the non-equilibrium dynamics of soft matter. In CY 2003 alone their joint work appeared in 3 articles in Physical Review letters (PRL), one of which was selected to be highlighted in the Physical Review Focus (June 20, 2003).□During 2001-2003, Matt had 18 publications, all in first-rate journals,

including 7 in PRL. Charles had 28 publications, including 10 in PRL. Much of the research of this highly productive team was done in collaboration with Cynthia Olson Reichhardt, a previous Director's Postdoctoral Fellow and staff member in T-12 since September 2002.

A committee of nine technical staff members reviewed all of the nominations submitted and a final recommendation was made to Laboratory Director Pete Nanos and Deputy Director for Science and Technology Bill Press, who approved the committee's recommendations.

Review committee chairperson and Center Leader for the Seaborg Institute, Dave Clark, said, "It is very satisfying to see the outstanding postdoc talent that resides at the Laboratory as was reflected in all of the nominations. The impact and quality of work that these individuals have accomplished is very impressive and these awards provide another opportunity to recognize the truly outstanding talent the Postdoctoral Program brings to our institution.

The Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Award winners will be presented with a certificate and monetary award at an awards banquet scheduled for April 1st. The award winners will also have the opportunity to present their work during a colloquium that will take place this summer. Watch the online Daily Newsbulletin at <http://www.lanl.gov/newsbulletin> for the time and place of the colloquium.

In addition to those selected for these awards, a number of the nominees were identified for honorable mention. They are Dmitri Babikov (T-12), Anatoly Efimov (MST-10), Sascha Kreiskott (MST-STC), Susan Kurien (T-7), Xiaozhou Liao (MST-STC), Shawn McGrane (DX-2), Hugh Nymeyer (T-10), Gyuhae Park (ESA-WR), Thom Rahn (EES-6), Michael Rivera (MST-10) and the small team nomination of Ryan DaRe and Chris Kuehl (C-SIC).

The award winners, and also those given honorable mention, will be presenting a poster that will be on display in the Main Administration building to coincide with the Director's State of the Laboratory Address, which is from 10 to 12 on Monday, March 22nd. The posters will be available for viewing beginning at 9:00 a.m.